

We need to come to a compromise that will prevent these indiscriminate cuts, and keep our economy on track and growing.

#### ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, over 100,000 victims of gun violence last year, many of them children. What has this House done to prevent other children from being added to this tragic tally? Nothing, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely nothing.

Ninety percent of Americans support effective background checks—90 percent. So when does this Chamber, the people's House, work for the 10 percent? Opponents have said that background checks will not stop every incidence of gun violence. Well, true. They would, unfortunately, not stop all future acts of gun violence, anymore than other laws stop all illegal behavior—but it would stop some. It would save the lives of some of our children. It would be all of us saying we have a moral duty to ensure that those purchasing handguns are not an established threat to our families, and it would be the start of a comprehensive approach to protecting our families.

Congress plays politics on so many issues. Let's not play politics with the lives of so many innocent Americans.

#### APPOINT BUDGET CONFEREES

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, my constituents and the American people deserve a budget. One of our principal duties in Congress is to pass a budget. Yet Congress has already missed the legal deadline this year because the Republican leadership has not yet appointed conferees to continue budget deliberations.

Yesterday, I joined many of my colleagues in signing a resolution calling on the GOP leadership to appoint conferees to a conference committee to continue working on the fiscal year 2014 budget.

After years of calling for regular order and for the Senate to pass a budget, which they did in March, I now find it ironic that Republicans are dragging their feet and stalling budget negotiations by refusing to appoint conferees.

We certainly have differences of opinion regarding budget priorities, Mr. Speaker; but that's no excuse for continued dysfunction and delay.

I ask you to appoint conferees today, and let's work to find a bipartisan compromise on a budget. Democrats stand ready to act to pass a budget that grows our economy, creates jobs, strengthens the middle class, and replaces the reckless, across-the-board sequester cuts.

#### UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read into the RECORD a letter that I received today from a 7-year-old in my district:

Dear Congresswoman Kuster. My name is Noah Dutille. I am a second grader at Plymouth Elementary School. I am hoping that you will help make sure no other kids are hurt by guns. Thank you for your service. Sincerely, Noah.

In my district, 90 percent of my constituents support universal background checks, including 75 percent of those who are members of the National Rifle Association. Mr. Speaker, 6.5 million guns sold each year in the United States are sold by unlicensed private sellers, including online and gun show sales, and 40-50 percent of all gun sales have no criminal background check. In fact, a recent national survey of inmates revealed that 80 percent of those who used a handgun in a crime acquired it through a private transfer.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Noah and all of the families in my district, I ask that we schedule a vote to keep our families safe.

#### BUDGET CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, repeatedly, Republicans have reprimanded Senate Democrats, claiming budget negotiations have stalled because the Senate has failed to pass a budget. Now, Senate Democrats have done their part. Republican leaders in the House must do the same by convening a conference committee to resolve our budget differences openly and honestly. That is a procedure that the Congress has always followed. That is regular order.

The best interests of the American people shouldn't have to sit on the back burner any longer. Unemployment remains too high, wages are stagnant, and sequestration is taking its toll. We need to address our country's challenges and create jobs, reduce the deficit, and strengthen our middle class while creating ladders of opportunity for those to climb into the middle class.

These are our top priorities. Sometimes these priorities get lost in the shuffle of partisan bickering. I urge Republican leadership to follow regular order and create a conference committee now.

#### COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, opponents of comprehensive immigration

reform will do anything to stop progress in today's world. Now they're using the terrorist attacks in Boston to somehow draw some connection between those events and the problems that really plague our immigration system. There is no connection, but problems still remain.

We still have to secure our borders. We still have to make sure that employers are only employing legal Americans. We still have 11 million undocumented people in this country. We don't know why they're here or who they are. We still need seasonal workers for many economic activities. We still need highly skilled workers—engineers and technicians—some of whom have been trained here but cannot work here. We still have people overstaying their visas, and we still have the problem that we need to increase the flow of immigration to stimulate our economy.

Delaying immigration reform will only weaken our economy and make us less safe. It is much better that we know everyone who is in our country, why they're here, and make sure they're paying taxes and contributing to American society. We need to pass immigration reform now.

#### GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I and 19 of my colleagues wrote to the Energy and Commerce Committee urging them to engage us in a debate on the House floor as to what our national policy should be in response to climate change. That request has been met with silence, but that's a more preferable response than the 53 votes that the House undertook during the last session to block the Obama administration from using its existing authority to address climate change.

In fact, for the year 2012, when this House voted to overturn a scientific finding that, in fact, climate change was occurring, we experienced the warmest year on record. More than half of this Nation's counties were declared Federal disaster areas, due mostly to drought, but also to extreme weather events. We experienced the second worst year of extreme weather events. In fact, Hurricane Sandy cost the Federal Government more than \$65 billion and took the lives of 147 Americans, and we experienced the third worst year for wildland fires; more than 9 million acres were burned.

These severe temperatures and extreme weather events we are experiencing all fit the predictive pattern of global climate change. Our failure to take action dooms future generations to ever more powerful and destructive weather events, altered coastlines, more devastating droughts and